

W. C. DOWD, JR.
J. E. DOWD, Editor
BUKE DAVIS, Associate Editor
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1945

The Library

Plans for a new Charlotte-Mecklenburg County library system are zipping along these days. Everyone seems to have his own idea about (1) the location of the main building (2) the way to pay for it. As we see it, no one is asking "Do we need a new library?" but "Where will we put it?" And that, we believe, is a good thing.

Latest of the proposals was that of Mayor Herbert Baxter. Yesterday he told the County Commissioners he thought it ought to be a "fifty-fifty" proposition. And the Commissioners apparently agreed with him, for they promptly approved a motion that the City and County attorneys get together and draw up legislation for joint capital outlay, operations, and representation on the administrative body.

Actually the phrase "fifty-fifty" is a nice misreading, and lest the County residents get unduly alarmed, they're going to be paying more than their share, we'd like to point out a couple of things. The 1944 tax listing for the county as a whole showed property valued more than \$182,000,000 for the entire county. Of that total, more than \$121,000,000 is inside the city limits—about 75 per cent.

Mayor Baxter has proposed, for example, a bond issue of \$300,000 by the City Government and another for a like amount by the County Government. Not only will the City taxpayers repay all the City Government's issue, they'll also repay 75 per cent of the County Government's bonds. Mayor Baxter further proposes a County-wide tax rate of five cents, and also a special City tax rate five cents more.

But once again the City folks own 75 per cent of that building. Even if it would bring the bulk of the open market, wouldn't it be better to put it to public service and plump the new library building down there than make a few thousands more by selling it?

Some little research, plus an instinctive mistrust of the man, has produced for us no bill of particulars against the appointment of Aubrey Williams as Rural Electrification Administrator. Integrity and ability seem to go unchallenged, and while the National Youth Administration, over whose unwilling to a skeptical country this same man presided, was gladly dropped by everyone concerned with it when the war came on, Williams is generally credited with having run the thing according to orders.

Fingerprinting

North Carolina police and sheriff organizations are getting their dander up over a new law which has been introduced in the House. The law came from Durham County and would bar police officers from fingerprinting persons arrested for misdemeanors except on certain charges. We haven't heard the arguments in behalf of such legislation, but it seems that the only possible ground for objecting to fingerprinting is our natural reluctance to put ourselves on record with the FBI, the Gov.'s office, or anybody else.

We can't recall offhand any complaints to this newspaper, by letter or otherwise, against the fingerprinting practices in vogue today. It may be true that some of our officers have been eager-beaver junior commanders in their enthusiasm for fingerprinting everybody in sight, but we're inclined to view that as rather harmless.

If there are good arguments for such a law, we'd like to hear them. But we still stand by the belief that fingerprinting on file would inconvenience anyone but the lawbreaker, and that our freedom is not being encroached upon when we press our fingers on an ink pad.

National Resource

Something that is likely to come out of this war, and to the tune of public acclamation in spite of its new-fangledness, is subsidized advanced education in the sciences (and maybe in the arts) for their enrichment for the liberal. Already the Army and Navy have set a precedent by paying the tuition fees and upkeep of selected personnel in critical specialties, and there is the established precedent of the service schools West Point and Annapolis.

After the war, the country will be a good deal shorter of the rising generation of doctors, technologists and apprentices of science than of trained military men, and a good deal shorter than it can afford to be for reasons of national and industrial advancement. This acute need will inevitably suggest aid for the exceptional youngsters on a basis of national necessity, and that will be the entering wedge for a system which will make it possible for the gifted young to go to school, unindured by financial pressure, to continue their education as far as their mentors determine they should.

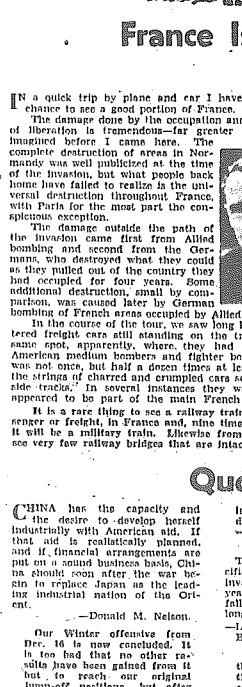
America has long fancied itself as a land of unlimited opportunity, where the individual and industrial advancement could go just about as far as he liked. That system, we must concede, has produced many exceedingly able men and marvelous scientific accomplishment, and we are not in favor of dividing the nation by Federalization and socialization of advanced scientific education.

His New Part In The Concert Of Nations

It was at this point that Ed Stettinius made a wise move. He told Latin American ambassadors, in effect: "We're not sure what the solution is, but it's a tough problem and let's talk it over."

Even this was a considerable departure from Hull's policy of no discussion. However, it had a helpful effect on Pan-American harmony. It was like opening a safety valve. Once the discussion of Argentina was over, Pan-American sentiment seemed to shift in favor of the U. S. position. Now Latin American governments like the Argentine Facienda, though many are not sure what the solution is, anyway they are now much more cooperative.

WARREN, Wash., Feb. 19 (AP)—Secretary of State Cordell Hull today announced that the United States has decided to send a representative to the Argentine Republic to help settle the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

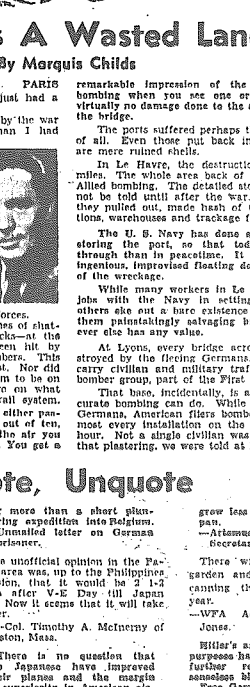


Underdogged Leader

When the State Department is too busy to see its best friend in Argentina, replied Mr. Folk, "that is news, and I'm writing the story."

Warren bridled and shot back some questions about why Iramas's Patria Libre Party operated in Argentina under a pseudonym, called ATRA. Warren, overlooking the fact that no opposition party can operate in Argentina against the Fascist Government except underground.

He asked me to write a story about the Argentine Republic, which was being in order to improve its public relations.

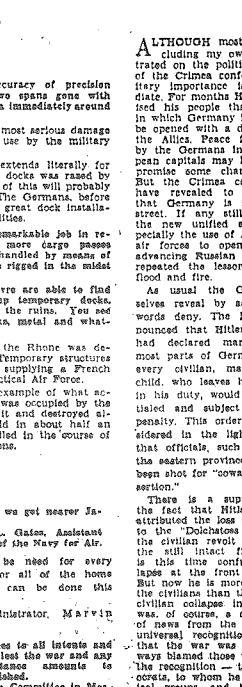


People's Platform

Editors, The News: If Henry A. Wallace has not been confirmed as Secretary of Commerce by the Senate by the time this letter appears, he soon will be. Not that the danger of dollars to a too honest man is to be removed, all efforts to prevent Mr. Wallace from becoming Secretary of Commerce are merely exhibitions of spite directed primarily against President Roosevelt.

Some newspapers, in their zeal to show that they are on the "right" side, have accused Mr. Wallace of being a Jew Christian. One editor recently advised Mr. Wallace of being "good, earnest, capable, honest and personally upright." Mr. Wallace's record is still before the public, and still be Fascist minded, still be present to us.

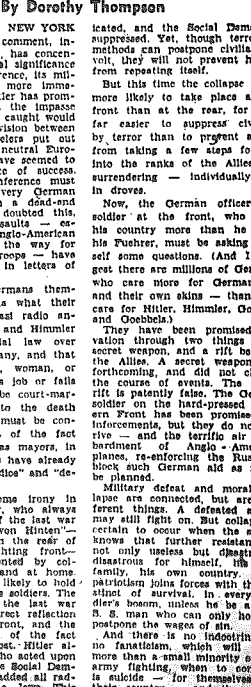
In making out his case against Mr. Wallace, the far-right-of-center editor might also with justification have accused Mr. Wallace of being a humanitarian having more interest in helping the common than the uncommon man.



Editors, The News: The story in The Charlotte News last week by Bessie Frazier is the most touching and forestal story to come out of the war during the past year.

It would help us all to understand with more restraint and sympathy the task ahead of these United Nations, mentally massacred by the German, in dealing with the liberated peoples of Europe.

Miss Hargrove is the first writer to clearly outline the irrefutable fact that the interest in death and death in our generation, but that he has succeeded in leaving an indestructible mark on the American scene. He set out deliberately to divide the people among whom he lived as a conqueror or a brief year or two. He created the condition, as clearly reported by Miss Hargrove, where the children have been corrupted into hunted little souls, living in a world of fear, devoid of childhood and vitality.



France Is A Wasted Land

PARIS
In a quick trip by plane and car I have just had a chance to see a great portion of France.

The damage done by the occupation and by the war of liberation is tremendous—far greater than I had imagined before we came here. The complete destruction of areas in Normandy was well publicized at the time of the invasion, but what people back home have failed to realize is the universal destruction throughout France, with particular but not the most part the conspicuous exception.

While many workers in Le Havre are able to find jobs, they find the city is so filled with rubble that there are no bare sections in the ruins. You see them painstakingly salvaging bricks, metal and whatever else has any value.

Quote, Unquote

CHINA has the capacity and the desire to develop herself industrially with American aid. If that aid is restricted, however, and if financial arrangements are put on a sound business basis, China should soon after the war be able to replace Japan as the leading industrial nation of the Orient.

There is no question that the Japanese have improved their planes and the marginally better than the United States, but they are still far behind us.

There will be need for every soldier in the front lines, and for all of the home-front men who can be done this year.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)

Mr. BENNETT of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have been shocked to find that the Military Order of the Purple Heart has been distributed in a manner which is entirely at variance with the original intention of this act.

Mr. SPEAKER, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart.

Statesmen At Work

Mr. BARNETT of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have been shocked to find that the Military Order of the Purple Heart has been distributed in a manner which is entirely at variance with the original intention of this act.

Mr. SPEAKER, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart.

Mr. SPEAKER, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart, the blues singer, has been awarded the Purple Heart.